

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage Library Foundation****Federal Tax ID: 92-0081583****Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Anchorage Library Foundation - Anchorage Downtown Library

State Funding Requested: \$2,500,000**House District: 20 / J**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Reconfigure 4,000 square feet of Municipality of Anchorage's 12,000 foot Old City Hall

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$17,000,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$13,500,000)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	(\$2,500,000)
Project Deficit:	\$1,000,000

Funding Details:

The Janet Goetz Trust distributed \$361,049 to the Anchorage Library Foundation in 2021 for the Downtown Library. At the end of 2021, the Corpus of the Trust was \$9,170,872 and funds under direct Anchorage Library Foundation control were \$4,330,786 for a total of \$13,532,072.

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The \$2.5 million legislative grant request covers capital costs needed to refurbish 4,000 square feet of the MOA's Old City Hall to accommodate a Downtown Library for Anchorage. The funding covers both physical modifications to the interior of the building and the elements necessary to operate a 21st century library. The physical modifications include interior renovations that will allow for library system checkout and return, materials and computer availability, a conference room, tourism service development, maker space and workforce development support.

The Goetz Funds will cover the operating costs of an Anchorage Downtown Library for the foreseeable future. Anchorage's Old City Hall as the location for Anchorage's Downtown Library meets the gift requirements that the Downtown Library be located in the old townsite of Anchorage. Importantly, the Old City Hall was also Mrs. Goetz's first choice as a location. Research and public outreach regarding other possible sites confirms that in light of downtown Anchorage's current needs and opportunities for development, Old City Hall remains the best site. Co-locating the Downtown Library with Visit Anchorage will allow for a synergy that creates, for the foreseeable future, economic development in downtown Anchorage for residents and visitors alike.

The Downtown Anchorage Library location would provide broadband access for employment and education resources to poor and working class residents of Downtown, Fairview, and Mountain View, and provide access to health care information. Since the Downtown Library will expand access to computers for the public, it meets the Digital Connectivity Technology criteria under CCPF in addition to the Multi-Purpose Community Facility Project criteria. Here is how the project

meets additional CCPF criteria:

1. The capital project invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring.

(A) By providing access to work, education, and health care information online, with assistance from librarians, the Downtown library would significantly expand access to poor and working class Anchorage residents, in the neighborhoods with the lowest rates of car ownership. In other words, a more local and accessible library location is critical so local residents can access these services.

2. The capital project is designed to address a critical need that resulted from or was made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(B) Widespread job losses, associated lost access to health insurance, and disruption to education (in classroom instruction) disproportionately affected poor and working class Anchorage residents, and the Downtown, Fairview, and Mountain View neighborhoods have some of the highest rates of poverty and lack of access to in-home broadband and personal computers in the city. A Downtown Library location with digital connectivity, access to educational resources, and computer access to employment and health care information will help our poor and working class families access the educational, employment, and health care information (e.g. purchasing plans through the health care market for families who have lost employer-sponsored insurance). A library is so important for these families because many parents work long hours or two jobs, and librarians can help poor students with digital access and educational materials.

3. The capital project is designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by it.

(A) Our local government has requested and prioritized this project, and it is requested by the Anchorage Library Foundation, the citizen board that identifies gaps and needs in our library system. The lack of digital connectivity and access to education, health care, and employment information downtown is a critical need and we cannot improve outcomes for poor residents of my district without moving forward on this project.

Project Timeline:

Upon receipt of grant, design will be initiated and design completed by Nov. 2022. Construction will be completed and the library opened late 2023.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Municipality of Anchorage; Anchorage Library Foundation

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No